

Counseling system

After being exposed to the heavy stress from criminal damage, the victim sometimes shows the symptoms such as sleeplessness, reduced appetite and overreaction to the noise. These symptoms will diminish as time passes, however, the counseling by the qualified psychology specialist is available if the victim's anxiety continues. Please ask the support staff for details.

Contact with crime victim

The police keep contact with victims or victim's family, who were involved in hit-and-run case, traffic accident causing death or injury requiring a month or more to recover, Dangerous Driving Causing Death or Injury case, to inform them about the following items.

- information of the other part of the accident
- criminal prosecution of the other part of the accident
- administrative punishment on a driver's license of the other part of the accident
- consultation services of the accident

Also, the police officer assigned to the neighborhood will visit the victim to give advice for crime prevention if the victim needs it. Please ask the police officer in-charge of the case for details. If you don't need such contact because of your wish to forget the incident, please tell that to the officer.

5, Benefit Payment for Criminal Damage

The government provides financial support for the one severely injured or disabled by the deliberate acts of crime and the one bereaved by such acts if the offender isn't able to compensate enough.

<Restriction of benefit reception>

- The one who has neither Japanese nationality nor fixed address in Japan when the act of crime is done isn't eligible for the benefit.
- The application for the benefit cannot be accepted if more than two years have passed since the one eligible for the benefit became aware of the existence of the criminal damage or if more than seven years have passed since the occurrence of the criminal damage.
- In the case where the victim should be blamed for the occurrence of the crime, the benefit may be reduced either totally or partially.

Please ask the neighborhood police station for details.

6, List of Consultation Service Office

Consultations in Japanese Language

Police consultation	
General police matter	Tel. 018-864-9110 (or #9110)
Support for crime victim's division at Akita prefectural police head quarter	Tel. 018-863-1111
Juvenile related matter	018-824-1212
HP http://www.police.pref.akita.jp/index.html (English page is available)	

Consultation services of traffic accident provided by prefectural government	
Seikatsu Center, Consultation desk of traffic accident	Tel. 018-836-7804,7805
HP http://www.akita.lg.jp	

Consultations in Foreign Languages

Akita International Association (AIA)	
AIA provides foreign residents with the telephone consultation services. It informs about who to contact when they have questions or problems while staying in Japan.	
Every Thursday 1:00~3:00p.m. 6:00~8:00p.m. Tel. 018-864-1183	
Languages available	
Japanese-English-Chinese	Every Thursday
Korean	1-3p.m. on 3rd Thursdays
Spanish	1-3p.m. on 3rd Thursday of Feb, My, Jun & Oct.
Portuguese	1-3p.m. on 3rd Thursday of Jan, My, Jul & Oct.

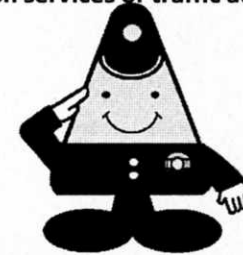
Traffic accident victim's guide

English Version

This leaflet provides Traffic accident victim with the information concerning criminal procedure, police investigation and victim support systems available in Japan.

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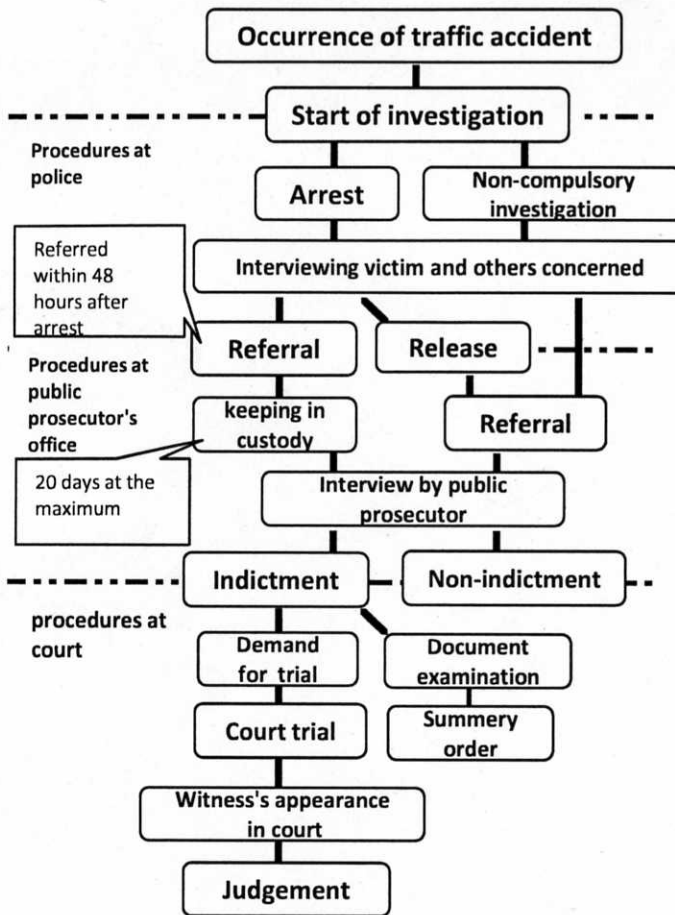
_____ Police Station Highway patrol conducts investigation into the case.
Tel :

Police officer in charge is _____ of _____ section.
Tel : _____ (Extension _____)

_____ of _____ section of _____ police station is assigned to make contact with you to provide information concerning the case.
Tel : _____ (Extension _____)

Akita Prefectural Police Headquarters

1, Outline of Criminal Procedure in Japan



※The procedure is altered if the suspect is juvenile.

“Criminal Procedure” means identifying the suspect of the crime and deciding the penalty for it. It consists of three phases such as “investigation” “indictment” and “court trial.”

Investigation: Activities to solve the crime.

Indictment: To bring the criminal to the court trial.

(It is the non-indictment if the criminal is not indicted)

Court trial: The trial to impose the criminal punishment.

The victim and the family might be asked to do some favors which are necessary in each phase.

2, Procedures at Police ~Request for Cooperation~

It is crucial for the police to get cooperation from the victim and the family of the victim to solve the crime. **It could be a burden for the victim**, however, we need to request the cooperation in the following to bring the criminal to justice.

① Interview

The police officer in-charge of the case asks the victim about the traffic accident and the description of the suspect.

If you feel embarrassed to talk with the male officer, please request to talk with the female officer. When a child is interviewed, parents might be allowed to attend the interview. Throughout the investigation, we sometimes ask the same questions over and over. We would like you to understand that we have to do that because it is necessary for confirming the crucial facts.

② Provision of evidence

The Victim might be required to provide evidence item to establish the traffic accident.

The Item provided will be returned after establishing the traffic accident.

The item might be temporarily returned upon the request from the victim even if it needs to be kept by the police. The victim can abandon the ownership of the item if the victim doesn't need it to be returned. In that case, the item is disposed of after establishing the traffic accident.

③ On-site inspection of traffic accident scene

Reconstructing the circumstances of the traffic accident scene to prove the facts and establish the traffic accident.

It is sometimes time-consuming, however, it is necessary for finding the truth and establishing the traffic accident. If you feel anxiety or embarrassment over the procedure, please tell the police officer in-charge of the case.

④ Autopsy

If the victim is dead, the police examine the body and autopsy it to determine the cause of death.

3, Procedures at public prosecutors office and court

Interview by public prosecutor

The public prosecutor interviews the victim to decide whether to indict the suspect or not. The public prosecutor may ask what the police officer in-charge of the case has already asked. This is because it is crucial for the public prosecutor to be convinced enough to make the decision.

Testimony in court

The victim might be required to testify in court to establish the crime (examination of a witness). The setups which would ease the emotional stress of the victim during the testimony are available in the court. Please ask the public prosecutor in-charge of the case for details.

Could go on a trial as a party

The victims of serious traffic accident, such as the case of Fatal Traffic Accident Resulting from Negligence, Dangerous Driving Causing Death or Injury, can participate in a trial as a party, which is a provided position by Code of Criminal Procedure, by getting a permit of the court. Please ask the public prosecutor in-charge of the case for details.

4, Police Support for Crime Victim

Victim support staff

When the police acknowledge the incident which requires specially arranged treatment for victim hit-and-run case, traffic accident causing death or injury requiring a month or more to recover, a case of Dangerous Driving Causing Death or Injury, they designate a police personnel who isn't involved in the investigation into the case as 'support staff.' The staff is supposed to conduct which would ease the criminal damage of the victim and the family.

The activities include

- attending to hospital
- attending to interviews
- attending to on-site inspection
- driving victim to and from the victim's home
- counseling on anxiety and taking care of victim at home
- providing information about other support systems and consultant institutions.

